

the Grey Nomad Times

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In this issue: •Ipads for all •Meet our GN character •Win a campervan rental

Newsletter heralds dawn of a new era

Welcome everybody to the very first edition of the fortnightly e-newsletter from the www.thegreynomads.com.au We hope *the Grey Nomad Times* will bring an extra and enjoyable dimension to your travel experience.

Every two weeks, 'The Times' will bring you a wide range of feature articles, product reviews, news briefs, prize-laden competitions, quizzes ... and even a grey nomad etiquette guide.

And the future promises even more. In upcoming editions, we will bring you an extensive Classifieds service, a letters column with 'Letter of the Week' prizes, and a series of exciting competitions, promotions and discounts. Watch this space! Wherever you are, we hope *the Grey Nomad Times* will make you smile, make you laugh, make you think, and occasionally even make you angry ... but most of all we hope it will make you appreciate travelling this wonderful country all the more.

In the inaugural edition, thanks to Kea, we are offering the winners of our humorous caravanning and motorhoming



LIVING THE DREAM ... and reading *The Grey Nomad Times*

story competition a free week away in a brand new camper or motorhome. You can also read all about Ipads, learn about the magnificent drive from Cairns to the Atherton Tablelands, and discover the on-the-road secrets of a grey nomad 'character'. And, if that's not enough, regular columnists Jaelyn and Heidi will be giving some good - and some bad - advice about how to deal with a campfire cooking dilemma. Oh ... and there is a head-scratching quiz and a pic puzzle, too.

Regular readers of the www.thegreynomads.com.au

don't need to worry though. The website will continue to bring you new news stories five days a week, as well as a wealth of background information to the on-the-road lifestyle, and one of the most popular and lively forums around.

So, grab a cuppa, put your feet up and enjoy this, the first edition of *the Grey Nomad Times*. And, if you've got time, we would love to hear your feedback. What you liked, what you didn't like, and what you would like to see in future editions.

Email us here with your comments and suggestions.

Stock market plunge puts dreams on hold for some

The stock market's recent sharp decline has left many grey nomads counting the cost ... and re-calculating their plans.

The plunging ASX translates to serious pain for the army of self-funded retirees either already on the road or planning to be so soon. Indeed, the CEO of Caravanning Queensland, Ron Chapman, says nothing hits grey nomad numbers like a big dip in superannuation fund value.

"Here in Queensland, caravanning numbers are down," he told the Grey Nomad Times. "And it is the stock market that has the biggest effect on how many grey nomads visit." The perception of having less spending power also affects the way those already on the road travel. "However, the thing about grey nomads is that they still want to enjoy Australia while they are still fit enough to get the most out of it," said Mr Chapman. "So we know they'll still be here in numbers in the years ahead."



Get it off your chest

impressed? angry? got a tip?

budget ideas? happy?

excited? relieved? disappointed?

The Grey Nomad Times will run a letters column in future editions. [Email us here](#) to tell us what's on your mind (In 75 words or less).

the Grey Nomad Times

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Ipads a hit with all generations

by Hannah Sinclair

'Swipe', 'pinch' and 'squeeze' – it seems the iPad is quickly becoming Australian seniors' number one technology. Certainly, many grey nomads are discovering the device's multi-functional capability and practical interface make it the perfect travel tool. Applications like Caravans NSW, Tripit, PackTM and Footprints Travel Guides are designed specifically for people who are on the open road.

While many grey nomads are nearly as tech-savvy as their whiz-kid teenage grandchildren, others who have witnessed the invention of the television and the first personal computer find it more difficult to embrace new technologies.

However, new research shows that Apple's iPad is helping to break down even the most reluctant senior's attitude towards electronic gadgetry. The iPad doesn't require any prior knowledge. Its touch screen and easy-to-follow icon design is user-friendly, and the adjustable text size overcomes problems for people with poor vision.

For travellers, the iPad's multi-functional use is its most impressive feature. Instead of having bundles of travel itineraries, maps and notes, all a grey nomad's travel needs can



Move over teens, we're I-savvy too

be included in a single device. Many of these applications don't require Wi-Fi access to operate which is handy for remote destinations. If Wi-Fi is needed, a simple application like Wi-Fi finder will find a look-in point.

The iPad's e-reader function allows users to download books and read them on the go. Long-term travellers will also enjoy the built-in camera which allows for real-time video-calls with family and friends back home.

The device can also be used to listen to music, watch movies, message friends, or play games. No wonder so many grey nomads won't leave their driveway without their iPad.

• **Hannah Sinclair is Content Strategist at Social Media Education Group**



Can you picture yourself here? Enter our competition

Win a Kea motorhome or campervan (for a week)

Roll up, roll up! It's competition time! *The Grey Nomad Times* is offering lucky readers the chance to win a fantastic KEA deluxe campervan or motorhome for an entire week. KEA's range of campervans and motorhomes include 2-berth and 4WD campers, as well as 4-berth and 6-berth luxury motorhomes, and they all guarantee an unforgettable travel experience.

Should they so choose, the prizewinner could be driving away in the KEA Dreamtime, the company's flagship motorhome. It boasts spacious open plan living, huge panoramic windows, and flexible bedding configurations. The 4-berth Dreamtime is ideal for couples wanting a little extra comfort and comes with extras including shower and toilet, microwave, fridge/freezer, entertainment system and KEA's fly screen security entry door.

Wow! The sensational prize also includes unlimited

kilometres and free insurance.

So, how do you win? We are calling on everyone to tell us their funny experiences while on a trip. Maybe you went in the wrong van after a particularly 'happy' happy hour, maybe you found it hysterically funny when the fella in the next site backed his van into a tree, or maybe you were on a midnight run to the drop toilet when you mistook a shadow cast by the moon for a killer snake!

Whatever tickled your funny bone we want to hear about it. **Email us here** with your funny stories in 150 words or less.

Entries must be received by midnight (AEST) on September 9. The winner will be judged by Travel Today editor, Steve Jones, and will be announced in *the Grey Nomad Times* on September 16. We will be publishing a selection of the best entries in future newsletters ... so get writing!

The prize includes:

Seven consecutive days hire of a luxury KEA campervan or motorhome from/to Adelaide/Alice Springs/Brisbane/Cairns/Darwin/Melbourne/Sydney/Perth.

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Characters of the Road

There is a sense of freedom once you hit the road - Vic

Meet 69-year-old Vic from Perth who now travels in a 2007 High Ace Campervan with his wife, Carol



ON THE ROAD AGAIN ... Vic with a previous rig

How much do you travel?
 We do not spend a long time away because of family commitments ... generally stints of about six months or less.

Where do you like to camp?
 We like a variety of camping locations depending on where it is and what is in the area. Sometimes it is nice to be in tranquil bush or national park camps, sometimes in caravan parks. All have their good points and, in a few isolated cases, bad points.

Best thing about the lifestyle?
 There is a sense of freedom once you hit the road, it is like leaving all your troubles and worries behind. It's the start of a new adventure each time you venture out on another trip.

Favourite on-the-road meal?
 We love stopping at small town bakeries and tasting their wares, veggie pies and pasties, cakes etc. Also fish and chip shops occasionally. In the van we mainly cook rice or pasta

meals and veggie soup on cold days. And, of course, salad and cheese sandwiches or sandwiches with other fillings like salmon or sardines etc.

Scariest moment?
 Probably when we parked our A'Van camper trailer on the Great Australian Bight when the northerly wind was blowing hard out to sea and we noticed the wide rear window of the camper trailer was lifting in the wind and only being held by the locking handles. The three hinges had worn through and were not holding the window down. If we had driven out into the wind it would have ended up in the ocean!

Favourite place to camp?
 We prefer the inland areas

and every state seems to have something great. Some of the coastal areas are good for young families, especially children, but can be overcrowded with overseas visitors in the tourist season.

Advice for wannabe nomads?
 Don't think about it too long! Just do it while you can. I have seen too many who have left it too late when their health is not good and have had to curtail their RV travels. However, don't rush into buying a suitable rig until you have an idea of what is best for you and your circumstances at the time. Hire one if you must to see what suits you best. And, above all, once you have your Recreational Vehicle of choice, get out there and enjoy yourselves.

Nomads in Brief

Bully Crystal
 A brazen thief has broken off a chunk of crystals the size of a tennis ball from a three-metre tall amethyst geode at the Crystal Caves at Atherton. Queensland's Empress of Uruguay, a hollow rock filled with amethyst crystals, was valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Up in the air
 A group claiming to be 'grey nomads of the air' have just returned from a lightning fast two-week trip around Australia ... visiting every mainland capital city as they went. Six friends made the trip in two-seater, home-built kit planes, covering an impressive 14,520km.

Lottery winners
 British couple Colin Weir and his wife Christine won around \$200 million on the Euromillion jackpot lottery recently ... and quickly announced their greatest wish was to stand at the foot of Uluru. Does it mean that, whatever the bank balance says, Aussie grey nomads are really all rich beyond their wildest dreams?

Wonder rock
 Uluru has recently been shortlisted to become one of the world's New Seven Wonders of Nature. The final verdict will be announced on November 11.

QUIZ CORNER

GRAB A CUPPA AND TEST YOUR GREY MATTA

Find The PHRASE

Combine the pics to name a place many travellers seek:



+



DO YOU KNOW

1. What colour is the roadhouse in Oodnadatta?
2. Where does the staircase in Broome go?
3. Which stop on Cape Trib's Bloomfield Track is a 'roaring' success?
4. What was Tassie's Bay of Fires named after?
5. What was the original name of Windjana Gorge?

(Answers on page 4)

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This issue, 'Great Drives' takes you from Cairns to the magnificent Atherton Tablelands



The fertile Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland boasts a string of scenic towns and villages, awe-inspiring crater lakes, excellent camping options, pristine rainforest and staggering birdlife ... but, incredibly, the journey there is almost as impressive as the destination itself!

The Tablelands are anywhere from 600m-1100m above sea level and offer cool respite from the coast's tropical heat. Up until the 1920s, Cairns residents struggled to access the wonders of the region but that changed when the Gillies Highway was constructed.

The 'Gillies' starts its ascent of the mountain ranges at the small town of Gordonvale, some 25 kms to the south of Cairns. It follows the Mulgrave River as it climbs ever upward, guarded on one side by a 922-metre high volcanic hill, the tree and scrub-covered Walsh's Pyramid. From here, the 'Gillies' winds its way up the impressive Lamb Range, climbing about 800m over 19 kms and - according to the Atherton Tablelands Local Tourism Network - has about 263 turns. Most grey nomads are either too dizzy or too rapt by the view to count them!

This is the way in to the southern end of the Atherton Tablelands and to attractions like the Crater Lakes - Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham - and Lake Tinaroo, Yungaburra, Malanda and Milla Milla.

If you need to catch your breath after a breathtaking drive, Atherton - built on the side of an extinct volcano - is a great place to do it. You are

"The journey is almost as impressive as the destination itself"

a full 753m above sea level here and although the town offers a full range of services, it most definitely retains its authentic country magic.

While the 'Gillies' is favoured by many, the Kennedy High-

way offers an alternative route from Cairns to the northern end of the Tablelands. Beginning in the suburb of Smithfield about 15 kms north of Cairns, the two-lane road offers sensational lookouts on the way up. Passing through the village of Kuranda travellers eventually emerge at the rural community of Mareeba.

Nearby, of course, is Chillagoe with its famed underground cave system, and there are a whole host of other Tableland towns like Herberton and Ravenshoe to discover.

Whether you want waterfalls, rainforests, history, birdlife or simply a place to launch the boat, you can find it all at the Atherton Tablelands. And however you choose to get here, you are most certainly in for the ride of your life. Enjoy.



ASK JACLYN and Heidi



Our experts solve your grey nomad etiquette dilemmas

Cooking up a Storm

Dear Jaclyn and Heidi,
I was camping in the McDonnell Ranges when a fellow grey nomad cooked an amazing stew on her fire. This gorgeous smell wafted across the whole campsite and loads of people wandered over to ask the beaming chef for her recipe and to praise her culinary powers. I felt insanely jealous and was secretly hoping she would knock the camp oven over and the contents would sizzle and spoil in the fire. Is there something wrong with me?

Janet

I'm glad you came to us for help, Janet. The joy of the open road lies in sharing knowledge, experiences, and friendship,

not the opposite. Perhaps you need to look at the underlying causes of your jealousy. Is your trip not going as well as you hoped? Is your partner annoying you? Does cooking in the relatively cramped quarters of the van mean you are not producing the classy meals you did at home? Next time, overcome your negative feelings and join the chorus of praise. Maybe you can pick up some campfire cuisine tips yourself and, in a few weeks, it could be your turn to be the centre of attention.

Jaclyn

Good for you, Janet. Finally some honesty among the grey nomad 'brethren'. Of course there is nothing wrong with you. It is natural to feel anger

and resentment when someone is clearly trying to show off with a public display of smelly cooking. You can bet your bottom dollar that everyone heaping praise upon 'Chef Showboat' were also hoping it would turn into a culinary catastrophe. Assuming that the camp oven was too well guarded to blatantly sabotage, the next best thing would have been to create a decent diversion to distract all the positive attention away from the offending cook. Pretending to lose your pet snake would have done the trick. Alternatively you could have said a total fire ban was in force, or that you had seen rats or mice coming out of the show-off's caravan.

Heidi

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QUIZ CORNER SOLVED
Pic puzzle: Dump Point
 Do you know answers:
 1. Pink; 2. The moon;
 3. Lion's Den Hotel;
 4. The Aboriginal campfires seen by European explorers;
 5. Devil's Pass